



10th Annual Tech-Savvy Superintendent Awards

Meet 10 of the nation's
top ed-tech leaders. > 19

IN THE NEWS

Teachers' digital media use on the rise

Three-fourths of teachers now
say they use digital media in
their classrooms. > 10

Obama expands national STEM initiative

\$200M pledge from Intel to
train math, science teachers
among the highlights. > 12

FTC probes virtual-world safety

Test of 27 sites reveals minors
can access explicit content. > 14

New chapter in eBook readers begins

Kindle's popularity fuels emergence
of a variety of competitors. > 16

Free online university gets high first marks

Well received in its debut,
University of the People
seeks greater respect. > 28

DEPARTMENTS

SECURITY CHECKPOINT >> 30

'Rogue' wireless networks
plague campus IT staff.

EDUCATION IN FOCUS >> 32

Companies unveil new
game-changing projectors.



STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS >> 41

How to keep education
squarely in the headlines.

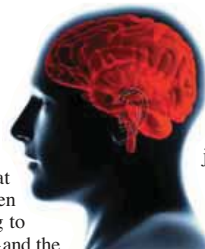
Learning-style research under fire

Students might not learn any better when taught
in their preferred style, psychologists suggest

Meris Stansbury
Associate Editor

As educators struggle to define effective 21st-century instruction, one practice that many have viewed as fundamental to teaching and learning has come under new fire: catering to different learning styles.

According to a new review of existing research, scientists have yet to show conclusively that students learn better when they are taught according to their preferred modality—and the



study's authors say it's time to stop funding a technique that hasn't been proven effective.

Commissioned by *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, the main journal of the Association for Psychological Science, the study is called "Learning Styles: Concepts and Evidence." It was written by psy-

Study, page 36

Building a following



eBook readers stood out at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas last month, as several firms introduced new devices. **Story, page 16.**

Economy continues to batter schools

New bill could offer relief,
with \$23B for education jobs

Laura Devaney
Managing Editor

While some economists point to signs that the nation's economy is improving, others say the U.S. faces a much slower climb out of the recession—a scenario that will have a huge effect on public education in the coming years.

Though the Dow recently broke 10,000 to hit its highest level for the first time in a year, the national unemployment rate, at 10 percent, is the highest it has been since 1983.

States are still waiting to hit bottom and are not likely to do so for another year or two—and education will feel the financial impact for

Economy, page 38

Schools weigh in on broadband plan

From staff and wire reports

To help provide broadband access to more citizens, the Federal Communications Commission should expand the eligible uses of e-Rate discounts to include after-school programs and community centers, many school leaders and education groups say—but only if the \$2.25 billion-a-year funding cap also is raised.

The federal stimulus package that Congress passed last year directed the FCC to submit a National Broadband Plan to law-

Broadband, page 36

Open courseware gains steam

Experts are split on how
much schools might save

Maya T. Prabhu
Assistant Editor

For years, tech-savvy educators have pushed for more open educational resources in classrooms as a way not only to engage students through technology, but also to save money in a time of tighter budgets. But does using open courseware really make a difference in spending?

Texas State Representative Scott Hochberg thinks so. He sponsored a bill that provides for the adoption and use of open-source textbooks in the state, beginning Sept. 1, 2010, by creating a digital repository of textbook content that will be managed by

the Texas Education Association. The move, he says, will save the state at least \$250 million a year.

"We were due to spend about \$225 million to replace the grades six through 12 lit-

Steam, page 38